

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA DROUGHT OUTLOOK

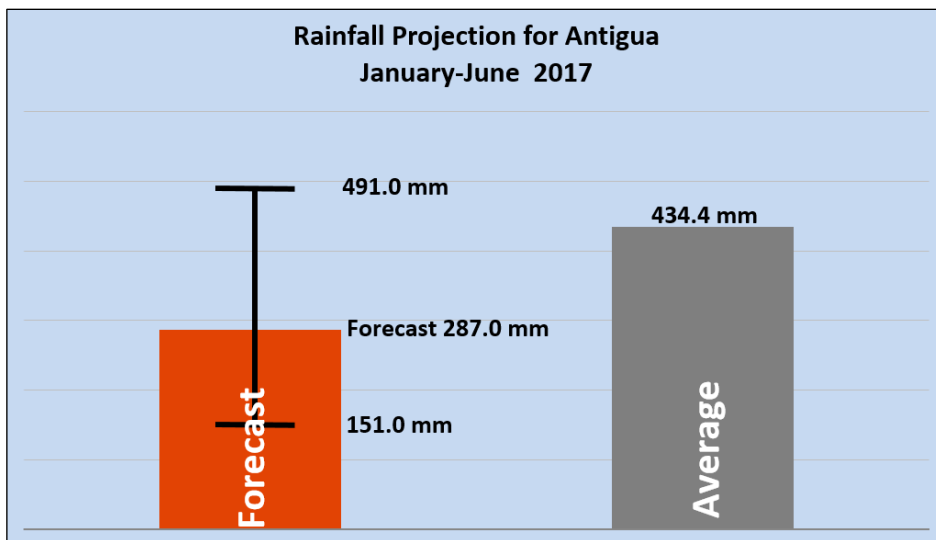


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...Moderate drought evolving...drought warnings in effect...

Based upon rainfall that has already fallen and rainfall forecast predicated on sea surface temperatures across the tropics, the following are being projected for Antigua with respect to droughts, particularly meteorological droughts of **moderate or worse intensity**. So far for the year, the rainfall total is running below normal; hence, a slight drought is evident. The rainfall deficit is forecast to grow in the short and long term; consequently, *drought warnings are in effect for those periods*.

Standard Precipitation Index (SPI) Based (Rainfall) Projections



Short Term – Six Months

January to June 2017

Based on the rainfall experienced January and February 2017 (83.3 mm or 3.24 in) and the outlook for March to June, a **moderate drought or worse is evolving** over the January-June 2017 (JJ) period; hence, a **drought warning** is in effect for the JJ period. The probability of a **moderate drought or worse** is 55%. Further, the best forecast of rainfall accumulation for the JJ period is around **287.0**

mm (11.3 in), with a 70% chance that the accumulation will be in the range 151.0 to 491.0 mm (5.9 to 19.3 in), which is centred **below normal** relative to the 1981-2010 normal of 434.3 mm (17.1 in). Dry season 2017 – January to June is likely to be drier than usual.

Medium Term – Nine Months

November 2016 to July 2017

Based on the rainfall experienced November 2016 to February 2017 (438.9 mm or 17.28 in) and the outlook for March to July, a **moderate or worse drought is UNLIKELY** over the November 2016-July 2017 (NJ) period; hence, **there is minimal drought concern** for drought for the NJ period. The probability of a **moderate drought or worse** is 30%. Further, best forecast of rainfall accumulation for the NJ period is around **712.0 mm** (28.0 in), with a 70% chance that the accumulation will be in the range 446.0 to 1069.0 mm (17.6 to 42.1 in), which is centred **near normal** relative to the 1981-2010 normal of 787.4 mm (31.0 in).

Long Term – One Year

October 2016 to September 2017

Based on the rainfall experienced October 2016 to February 2017 (485.1 mm or 19.10 in) and the outlook for March to September, a **moderate drought or worse is evolving** over the October 2016-September 2017 (OS) period; hence, a **drought warning** is in effect for the OS period. The probability of a **moderate drought or worse** is 55%. Further, the best forecast of rainfall accumulation for the OS period is around **917.0 mm** (36.1 in), with a 70% chance that the accumulation will be in the range 645.0 to 1257.0 mm (25.4 to 49.5 in), which is centred **below normal** relative to the 1981-2010 normal of 1201.4 mm (47.3 in).

Further, the projected rainfall total for 2017 is likely to be below normal. The rainfall accumulation is projected to be around **870 mm** (34.3 in), with a 70% chance that the accumulation will be in the range 593.0 to 1222.0 mm (23.3 to 48.1 in). The 1981-2010 normal is 1205.5 mm (47.46 in).

Related Products

More outlooks: [April 2017](#), [April-June 2017](#), [July-September 2017](#), [April-September 2017](#)

Recently observed: [Rainfall](#), [Temperature](#)

Definition

Drought watch: An announcement that a **moderate drought or worse (MD/+)** is possible or has a probability of 35-49% of occurring. [This alert calls for, among other things, the implementation of management plans and residents to keep updated.](#)

Drought warning: An announcement that a **MD/+** is evolving or has a probability of 50-82% of occurring. [This alert calls for, among other things, maximized water conservation and efficiency measures.](#)

Drought emergency: An announcement that a **MD/+** is evolving or has a probability of over 82% of occurring. [This alert calls for, among other things, enforcement of water restrictions.](#)

The next outlook will be issued by May 15.

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